



The President's Daily Brief

6 August 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 August 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Soviets

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The Soviet SALT delegation now says it wants the US to table a zero-level ABM proposal, a reversal of Moscow's previous position on the subject. (Page 2)

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On Page 4, we comment on some of the objectives Cambodian Prime Minister - delegate Sirik Matak may have in mind as he begins his official visit to the US.

Jordan

(Page 5)

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Islamabad intends to bring East Pakistani leader Mujib to trial soon. (Page 6)

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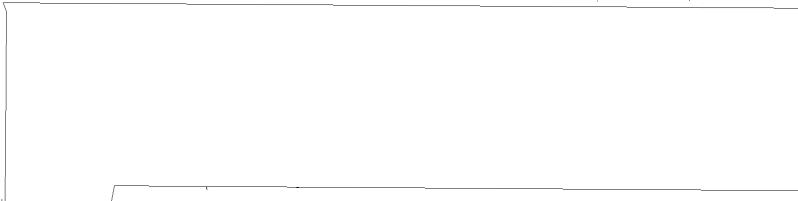
USSR



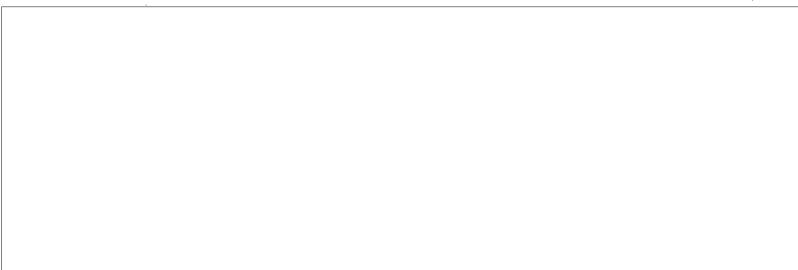
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SALT

Recent remarks by members of the Soviet SALT team indicate that the Soviet delegation wants the US to table a zero-level ABM proposal, but that there are sharp differences of opinion on this subject among the Soviet delegation members and probably in Moscow as well.

Semenov informed Smith on 25 July that he had come to Helsinki authorized to say that the Soviet Union would be interested in discussing zero-level ABM in greater detail to ascertain "if it was a realistic prospect." On the same day Semenov's deputy, Timerbaev, reiterated Soviet interest in the zero-level prospect to a member of the US delegation and suggested that the US introduce a zero-level proposal.

These approaches constituted a complete about-face on the subject. The Soviets turned down the concept of zero-ABM when the US advanced it at the last SALT round in Vienna.

Early this week the Soviet delegation's ranking military member in Helsinki, General Trusov, told his American counterpart, General Allison, that an ABM agreement should not require destruction of existing systems, and added that the Soviets do not intend to destroy their Moscow defense. He then decried the "inequality" of a 3-for-1 or 4-for-1 Safeguard-Moscow trade-off, but said that an offer to limit US sites to the two "northernmost" at Grand Forks and Malmstrom would not be as objectionable.

The next day, two senior members of the Soviet delegation disavowed Trusov's remarks, calling them "personal" views. They declared that the views and instructions of the Soviet Government were as conveyed by Semenov to Smith, and specifically that the Soviet delegation expected and awaited a new zero-level ABM proposal. The Soviets said that within both delegations and in both capitals there were "differing views" on such questions as an ABM ban, and that it was important not to be misled by "parallel conversations." The talk indicated that while the two Soviets were aware that Trusov had been negative about zero-level ABM, neither of them seemed to know of Trusov's remarks that a 2-for-1 Safeguard-Moscow proposal might be negotiable.

(continued)

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This sequence provides added evidence for the point, made in The President's Daily Brief of 16 July, that SALT policy is a disputed matter among the Soviets. It is plausible to suppose that the military is highly averse to tearing down the Moscow system, and General Trusov's remarks on a 2-for-1 deal may represent the fallback position of those who want to avoid this.

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CAMBODIA

US Charge Enders in Phnom Penh has reported some of the objectives Sirik Matak has in mind as he begins his official visit in the US today.

--Enders believes Matak will in all probability renew Lon Nol's request for US support for putting an additional 50,000 men under arms. The Cambodians evidently are giving serious thought to pushing to recapture Kratie city, some 100 miles northeast of Phnom Penh and the most important urban center in the northeast region. He may request US air support for this undertaking.

Matak and others in the Cambodian Government believe that a peace settlement in Indochina now looms as a real possibility. They are in favor of this (and have in fact established a high-level committee to plan for Cambodia's eventual involvement in negotiations), but they fear that the northeast, which has been in enemy hands since the summer of 1970, may end up permanently in Communist hands.

--On the economic side, Matak may want to discuss steps that both governments can take to speed up Cambodian use of US aid, including the possibility of untying some more AID funds.

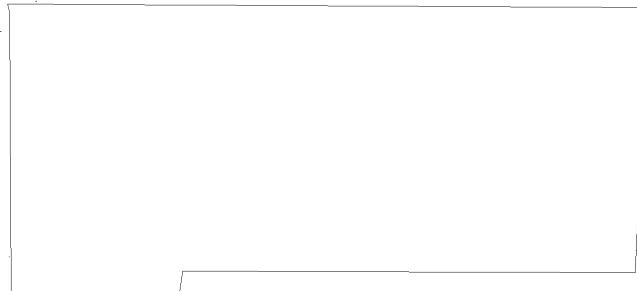
Just before his departure, Matak received the bad news that Cambodian currency reserves dropped precipitously last month. It may cause him to press his points on the economy with more urgency.

--Matak probably counts on his visit to help him strengthen his position.

Although Matak is the nation's most able and decisive administrator, his political future is still dependent on Lon Nol. The prime minister, who has had some unkind things to say about Matak lately, appears to be reasserting his position as the principal spokesman for the government in an increasingly turbulent political scene.

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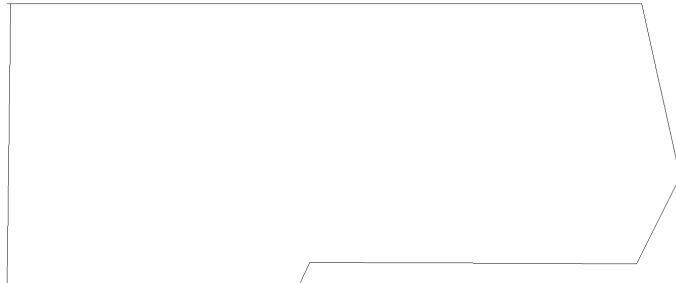
JORDAN



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NOTES

Pakistan: Islamabad will soon bring imprisoned East Pakistani leader Mujibur Rahman to trial for treason. [redacted] The case will be heard by a military court, perhaps as early as next week. President Yahya told a British newsman last month that he was determined to go ahead with an early nonpublic trial. Mujib's martyrdom would further reduce chances for a political settlement in East Pakistan.

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Malta: Prospects appear favorable for an economic agreement with Libya following Mintoff's visit to Tripoli Wednesday. A few days earlier another Maltese delegation had failed to conclude a pact when some last-minute hitch appeared. A member [redacted] stated that Libya had requested refueling rights for its military aircraft and naval vessels. Meanwhile, the North Atlantic Council yesterday made substantial progress toward putting together a cash package for the British to offer to Mintoff, although the proposal falls far short of his demands.

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